

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS STATEMENTS (EISs):**Department of Energy Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs Environmental Impact Statement**

Description: The EIS analyzes at the programmatic level, the potential environmental consequences over the next 40 years, of alternatives related to the transportation, receipt, processing, and storage of spent nuclear fuel under the responsibility of the Department of Energy (DOE). This document analyzes alternatives of no action, decentralization, regionalization, centralization and the use of the plans that existed in 1992/1993 for the management of these materials. It also analyzes the site-specific consequences of Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) sitewide actions anticipated over the next ten years for environmental restoration, waste, and spent nuclear fuel management. For the INEL, this document analyzes alternatives of no action, ten-year plan, minimum, and maximum, treatment, storage, and disposal of DOE wastes.

Schedule:

Notice of Intent published:	September 3, 1993
Scoping Period:	Through October 4, 1993
Implementation Plan:	October 29, 1993, amended May 11, 1994
Draft EIS:	June 24, 1994
Public Comment Period:	Through September 30, 1994
Final EIS:	By April 30, 1995
ROD:	By June 1, 1995

Cost Estimate: \$35.5M (DOE-ID Contractors)

(NOTE: The January 30, 1995 version of the Annual NEPA Planning Summary sent to DOE Headquarters reported the cost of this EIS to be \$46.7M. The cost estimate has since been revised to the figure shown above.)

EVALUATION OF WHETHER A SITEWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT WOULD FACILITATE FUTURE COMPLIANCE EFFORTS:

Volume II of the DOE Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and INEL Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs EIS provides a comprehensive environmental baseline for the INEL. The need for a separate sitewide EIS (which would include reactor operations) has been, and will continue to be, evaluated by the Department of Energy-Idaho Operations Office NEPA Planning Board. The Planning Board is considering the resources necessary to prepare a separate sitewide EIS and has recommended delaying a decision on the matter until it can be more fully assessed.

NOTE: Volume II, Part B Appendix C, of the DOE Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and INEL Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs EIS, contains summaries of foreseeable projects at the INEL. Some of these projects will be included in the preferred alternative. It is anticipated

that the EIS will provide adequate NEPA documentation for a certain number of these projects. Other projects will need to be evaluated to determine the level of NEPA documentation required. The priority, timing and allocation of resources to prepare NEPA documentation will be specifically identified following the June 1, 1995 issuance of the record of decision for the EIS. Therefore, this Annual NEPA Planning Summary may need to be revised in the third quarter of calendar year 1995.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS (EAs):

Revised Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for INEL Low Level and Mixed Waste Processing

Description: The proposed action would allow DOE to incinerate low level and mixed waste at the INEL Waste Experimental Reduction Facility and dispose of the resulting ash at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex at the INEL as proposed in the environmental assessment (DOE/EA-0843). The FONSI for INEL Low Level and Mixed Waste Processing dated June 3, 1994 did not provide for incineration at the Waste Experimental Reduction Facility.

Schedule: If a decision is made to proceed with a revised FONSI, it will be issued by March 31, 1995.

Cost Estimate: Costs are projected to range from \$5,000 to \$25,000 depending on whether the FONSI is revised, or EA and FONSI are both revised. (NOTE: The proposed revision of the FONSI for INEL Low Level and Mixed Waste Processing was reported in the January 30, 1995 version of the Annual NEPA Planning Summary sent to DOE Headquarters. The proposal to revise the FONSI has since been withdrawn.)

Waste Characterization Facility at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory

Description: The proposed action would construct and operate a facility to characterize, treat and repackage as necessary, contact handled transuranic, low level and mixed wastes from the INEL transuranic storage area, INEL environmental restoration activities, and other DOE laboratories. The facility would be constructed at INEL's Radioactive Waste Management Complex. Operations would include opening waste containers, examining, sampling, and analyzing the contents, removing and/or treating waste constituents that are unacceptable for re-storage, and repackaging the characterized waste. Repackaged waste would be transferred to the Waste Storage Facility at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex for permitted storage until the waste can be disposed of at either a geologic repository, as low level waste at another disposal facility, or until appropriate treatment could be performed.

Schedule: The draft EA was released for 30 day public review and comment in November 1994. Comments were received from the State of Idaho and U.S. Geological Survey. The comments have been addressed and the FONSI was issued the third week of March 1995.

Estimated Costs: Based on all contractor charges, current costs are \$100,000.

Test Area North Pool Stabilization

Description: The proposed action would remove Three Mile Island core debris, government owned commercial fuels and "Loss of Fluid Test" fuel assemblies from the INEL's Test Area North (TAN) hot shop storage pool. The TAN pool would be de-watered and placed in an industrially safe condition. A dry cask storage facility would be constructed at INEL's Idaho Chemical Processing Plant to receive and store the Three Mile Island core debris. The government owned commercial fuels and Loss of Fluid Test fuel assemblies would be placed in commercial storage casks and placed on an existing storage pad at TAN.

Schedule: The draft environmental assessment was released for a 30-day public review and comment period from February 20, to March 21, 1995.

Estimated Costs: Based on all contractor charges, current costs are \$170,000.

Replacement of the INEL Health Physics Instrumentation Laboratory

Description: The proposed action would design, construct and operate a new Health Physics Instrumentation Laboratory at the INEL. Instrumentation laboratory operations consist of shipping, receiving and storage of radiation detection instruments, instruments repair and calibration, and laboratory operations. Radiation activities would occur in gamma well, gamma, beta, x-ray, low-level, low-scatter, alpha/beta irradiation, and panoramic laboratory sections of the new facility. The existing facility, which has some historical significance, would be abandoned by the instrumentation laboratory operations but would not be demolished as a part of the proposed action.

Schedule: The draft environmental assessment was released for a 30-day public review and comment on January 19, 1995. It is anticipated that the FONSI will be issued by the first week of April 1995.

Estimated Costs: Based on current contractor charges and projected costs, the total costs through to completion are estimated to be \$65,000.

INEL New Borrow Source Site

Description: The proposed action would open a new borrow source site (i.e., a pit containing fine grained silt and clay sediments) within the INEL boundary or within the immediate vicinity of the INEL. The new site would provide borrow material for INEL facility operations and maintenance, new facility construction, waste management, decontamination, dismantlement and demolition, research, and environmental restoration activities. The total surface area of the new site would be up to 100 acres, the total volume of borrow material that would be removed would be up to 4,600,000 cubic yards (3,517,500 cubic meters.) (NOTE: The figures reported in the January 31, 1995 version of the Annual NEPA Planning Summary sent to DOE Headquarters were 50 acres, 1,000,000 cubic yards to 764,000 cubic meters. This has been revised to the figures shown above.)

Schedule: The draft environmental assessment will be released for a 30-day public review and comment by the last week of May 1995.

Estimated Costs: Based on current contractor charges and projected costs, the total costs through to completion are estimated to be \$30,000.

Plasma Hearth Process Project

Description: Presently conceptual, the project would demonstrate the full-scale plasma hearth process on actual mixed low-level waste that is difficult to treat through conventional thermal technologies.

Schedule: Projected to release a draft environmental assessment for a 30-day public review by September 1, 1995.

Estimated Costs: Total cost is projected to be \$50,000.